

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 597  
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION memorializing the U.S. Congress to fully fund the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to support every effort to provide opportunities for excellence in Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers model has proved to be highly successful in Tennessee, helping an estimated 20,000 students in 132 such centers across the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program provides opportunities for academic enrichment and tutorial services to help students, particularly those from low-income families and those attending low-performing schools, to improve in core academic subjects; and

WHEREAS, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program offers students and their families a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities by offering opportunities for literacy and related educational development; a study found that students

participating in after-school programs increased their reading and math scores nearly twice as much as comparable students who did not participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program provides a safe, positive, productive, after-school environment for adolescents who would normally be home alone or engaged in unsupervised activities; the program is especially valuable in light of the fact that juvenile crime peaks between 3 and 4 p.m., the hour after school ends; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby memorializes the U.S. Congress to fully fund the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program in the Fiscal Year 2004 budget at 1.5 billion dollars as was previously authorized by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation, U.S. Secretary of Education Ron Paige, and President George W. Bush.